

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An expression cassette comprising an adenoviral VA1 gene and a nucleic acid encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule, wherein the adenoviral VA1 gene comprises the adenoviral VA1 promoter and a coding sequence for the VA1 RNA, wherein the nucleic acid is inserted within the adenoviral VA1 coding sequence corresponding to a secondary stem loop structure of the VA1 transcript, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the RNAi molecule encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA) or a precursor microRNA (precursor miRNA) and wherein upon expression the VA1 RNA contains the RNAi molecule which is processed from the VA1 RNA to become a substrate for Dicer.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding nucleic acid is contained within a non-essential stem region of the coding sequence of the VA1 RNA.

Claim 3 (original): The expression cassette of claim 2, wherein the non-essential stem region contains a BstEII site.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding nucleic acid comprises a loop containing from 4 to 9 bases.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the loop contains 8 bases.

Claims 7-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A mammalian cell into which has been introduced an expression cassette comprising an adenoviral VA1 gene and a nucleic acid encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule, wherein the adenoviral VA1 gene comprises the adenoviral VA1 promoter and a coding sequence for the VA1 RNA, wherein the nucleic acid is inserted within the adenoviral VA1 coding sequence corresponding to a secondary stem loop structure of the VA1 transcript, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the RNAi molecule encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA) or a precursor microRNA (precursor miRNA) and wherein upon expression the VA1 RNA contains the RNAi molecule which is processed from the VA1 RNA to become a substrate for Dicer.

Claim 12 (original): The mammalian cell of claim 11, wherein the mammalian cell is a primary cell.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding nucleic acid encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding nucleic acid encodes a precursor microRNA (miRNA).

Claim 15 (previously presented): The mammalian cell line of claim 11, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding nucleic acid encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA).

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Claim 16 (previously presented): The mammalian cell line of claim 11, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding nucleic acid encodes a precursor miRNA.